

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to clarify the language.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The claims have been amended to improve their language in what is believed to be a non-narrowing fashion. Claim 2 as been amended to depend on claim 1.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

The Specification

The specification is objected to as containing informalities. The Official Action asserts that a, x and y are not defined.

However, the specification has been amended to define a, x and y as being greater than zero. Since the patent application deals with lead zirconate/titanate, the three elements lead, titanium and zirconium must be present.

The Claims

Claim 1 is objected to as containing informalities in the formula. The Comments in the Official Action have been considered, and claim 1 has been amended to be free from informalities.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

Claims 2, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the subject matter is not found in the specification. However, the Official Action acknowledges that the rare earth portion is the value b, to which claim 2 is clearly directed.

The scope of claim 12 is also clear, where the metallization comprises at least one of silver, copper and palladium. For example, the metallization is formed of a pure metal of the mentioned elements. An alloy, e.g., an alloy with a proportion of palladium from 0% up to 30%, is possible, too. For one skilled in the art, the scope of protection is clear.

The claims are thus in full compliance with the written description requirement.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 3-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Official Action asserts that the variables in claim 1 are not defined. However, claim 1 has been amended to define

a, x and y. It is also noted that b and z are proportions that are adequately defined in claim 1.

The Official Action asserts that claims 7 and 9 omit certain essential steps. However, claims 7 and 9 have been amended so that the method being claimed is clear.

The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by CRAMER et al. (U.S. Patent 6,230,378). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over CRAMER et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend on claim 1, which was free of these rejections over CRAMER et al. As a result, claim 2 is now free of these rejections at least by merit of its dependence.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 29, 2004 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

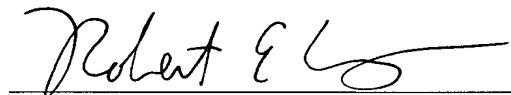
Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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